

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method of synthesizing spongiosine, which comprises reacting 1-*O*-acetyl-2,3,5-tri-*O*-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranose with 2-methoxyadenine to form 9-(2',3',5'-tri-*O*-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranosyl)-2-methoxyadenine, then deprotecting the 9-(2',3',5'-tri-*O*-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranosyl)-2-methoxyadenine to form spongiosine.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the 9-(2',3',5'-tri-*O*-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranosyl)-2-methoxyadenine is deprotected by treatment with sodium methoxide/methanol at room temperature.
3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, which further comprises suspending the spongiosine in acetic acid, then isolating the spongiosine.
4. (Original) A method according to claim 3, which further comprises dissolving the isolated spongiosine in organic acid, then crystallizing the dissolved spongiosine from the organic acid.
5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, which further comprises dissolving the spongiosine in organic acid, then crystallizing the dissolved spongiosine from the organic acid.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4 ~~or 5~~, wherein the organic acid is acetic acid.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~any of claims 4 to 6~~, wherein the spongiosine is crystallized from the organic acid by contacting the organic acid with an organic alcohol in which spongiosine is partially soluble.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, which further comprises heating 2-chloroadenine with sodium methoxide/methanol at less than 150°C; ~~preferably to 100°C~~, to form the 2-methoxyadenine.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of synthesizing 2-methoxyadenine, which comprises heating 2-chloroadenine with sodium methoxide/methanol to less than 150°C, ~~preferably to 100°C~~.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~, which further comprises heating a mixture of 2-chloroadenine and sodium methoxide/methanol to form 2-methoxyadenine, adjusting the pH of the mixture to pH 9.5 (± 0.5), and isolating the 2-methoxyadenine before reacting the isolated 2-methoxyadenine with the 1-*O*-acetyl-2,3,5-tri-*O*-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranose.

11. (Original) A method of synthesizing 2-methoxyadenine, which comprises heating a mixture of 2-chloroadenine and sodium methoxide/methanol to form 2-methoxyadenine, adjusting the pH of the mixture to pH 9.5 (± 0.5), and isolating the 2-methoxyadenine.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 10 ~~or 11~~, wherein the mixture is heated to less than 150°C, ~~preferably to 100°C~~.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~any of claims~~ 8-12, which further comprises converting 2,6-dichloropurine to the 2-chloroadenine.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13 in which the 2,6-dichloropurine is converted to 2-chloroadenine by treating the 2,6-dichloropurine with methanolic ammonia to produce 2-chloroadenine, diluting the 2-chloroadenine produced with water, and then isolating the 2-chloroadenine.

15. (Original) A method of synthesizing 2-chloroadenine, which comprises treating 2,6-dichloropurine with methanolic ammonia to produce 2-chloroadenine, diluting the 2-chloroadenine produced with water, and then isolating the 2-chloroadenine.

16. (Original) A method of synthesizing spongosine, which comprises the steps of Scheme 2.

17. (Original) A method of synthesizing spongosine, which is substantially as described with reference to Scheme 2.

18. (Original) A method of synthesizing 9-(2',3',5'-tri-*O*-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranosyl)-2-methoxyadenine, which comprises reacting 1-*O*-acetyl-2,3,5-tri-*O*-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranose with 2-methoxyadenine to form 9-(2',3',5'-tri-*O*-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranosyl)-2-methoxyadenine.

19. (Original) Use of 2,6-dichloropurine in the synthesis of spongosine.

20. (Original) Spongosine that is at least 99% pure.